

THE PLANET

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JOHN MITCHELL, JR., - EDITOR.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to us as reach us Wednesday.

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Entered in the Post-Office at Richmond, Va., as second class matter.

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1897.

The Greeks are being badly worried by the Turks.

Our white friends will uphold us in every right action. We should not forget this.

COLORED men should defend those of their race charged with crime, as against lawless mobs. Lynch-law must go!

The Republicans of Pennsylvania, Pa., desire Editor M. M. LEXLEY as postmaster. We trust he may secure the appointment.

Good behaviour will be of untold benefit to us as a people just now. Let us send the vicious and the insulting elements to the rear.

JUDGE JOHN H. INGRAM presided at the trial of the colored man, WESLEY MAYO, who was given ten years in the Virginia Penitentiary for being within thirty feet of a white woman.

BROTHER BROWN, at the True Reformers' Hall Sunday afternoon referred to the PORTER suit, by "gingerly" passed by in silence the Gentry suit. Who has been coaching him?

Ten years for looking at a white female is the latest phase of the Virginia situation. At this rate colored men will be wanting to give white men twenty years in the Virginia penitentiary for meeting colored ones.

COLORED men, let us be careful of our conduct to the end that nothing we can avoid shall be done to offend our white neighbors. Be courteous and manly, and yield no inherent right at the behest of the prejudiced.

The grand jury has condemned the methods in operation at the Eastern Penitentiary at Philadelphia, Pa. If cruelty is prevalent there, an unchristian practice noted, what must it be in the southern states where the convict lease system is a stench in the nostrils of the civilized world.

The New York Medical Record for May 1st, has been received. It is replete with valuable information, and contains an admirable editorial, entitled "Hard Lines in Medical Practice." It portrays in language, easily understood the difficulties to which physicians are being subjected and the causes of their waning practice.

If a colored man is given ten years in the Virginia penitentiary for looking at a white woman, what must his punishment be for passing by her side. MAYO was not less than thirty yards from a Mrs. LOUISE of Chesterfield county, but was given the punishment cited upon a charge of attempted criminal assault.

We have received The COMPOUND for May. It is an exceptionally fine issue. The following are its contents: Frontispiece, "Galloping through the Confusion." The War of Wills, H. G. WELLS. The New Congressional Library, NANNIE BELLE MAURY. Great Business Operations—The Collection of News, T. B. CONNERT. Modern Education, President GILMAN. The Turkish Menah, I. ZANOWITZ. The History of the Lady Bettie Stair, MOLLY ELLIOTT SEAWELL. The Glory of War—after the Battle, HENRY COLLINS WALSH. Life, (poem), ANNA PARKS OVIATT. Confessions of a Physician, FRANCIS COURTNEY RAYLOR. The Progress of Science, S. C. THOMAS. WILLIAM WATSON'S BATTERY in the World of Art and Letters, J. ZANGWILL. HARRY THURSTON PECK, JOHN BRIDGES WALKER. Some Examples of Recent Art. Mr. JOHN BRIDGES WALKER is editor. The magazine is profusely illustrated, the "cuts" of the dead in the trenches, during the late civil war being especially interesting. Price 10 cents—\$1.00 per year. Address, Irvington, New York.

The New York Age publishes a letter, minus the day on which it was written, from Hon. ISAAC H. SMITH of New Berne, N. C. This gentleman al-

leges that he was induced to spend (\$1,000) one thousand dollars in the campaign of last year to further the election of the present Chief Executive of the nation.

He claims to have letters from persons in high places and promises to give them to the public. These documents he claims will support his statements. Mr. SMITH declares that he does not now expect any office or favor from the present administration and only wishes that he had his vote and his money back. He was a candidate for the office of Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia, and no doubt has been assured that he can wait until "next time."

Mr. SMITH's predicament is in keeping with that of thousands of others, who could read to him essays upon the uncertainty of politics, and "the money I spent in furthering the election of the other fellow."

We regret to learn of the disappointment and loss of our good North Carolina banker. Well, they say experience is one of the best teachers, and he will know better next time.

We have had several courses of instruction in that school ourselves.

Mr. Wm. A. JONKER of Washington, D. C., writes to the COLORED AMERICAN a flowery, rhetorical defense of the family of the late FREDERICK DOUGLASS in not having placed even a tombstone to mark his grave.

It is addressed to the accomplished Miss ALICE ROSS. Moore, who called attention to the fact, Mr. JONKER uses a column or more, and barring one statement we fail to see where he has answered satisfactorily Miss MOORE's criticism.

When he says that "the matter of their marking the grave was to be settled by them, and then alone, in their own time, in their own way without public advice or interference," he carries the entire ground, and the matter should have rested there for he stated the truth.

Yet, the public is meddlesome, and will naturally wonder why his wife and children should have failed to sequester from the fortune left by Mr. DOUGLASS at least a thousand dollars to mark his grave.

Of course the public should start a subscription and rear a shaft, in keeping with his greatness, but the attitude of his immediate relatives will have much to do with the consummation of such a project.

NOT WANTED THERE.

The Richmond, Va., DISPATCH local columns of Sunday, 21 inst., are authority for the statement that Major Lewis GINTXER has decided to open Lakeside Park to the public with the one restriction that only white people shall be admitted.

We read the article again and again, and hesitated to believe that a gentleman of Major GINTXER's years and experience just before he is about to take the long journey should have yielded to the coaxing of the prejudiced, and have excluded from the park in question one of the kindest races of people on the face of the globe.

No, Lakeside Park is not open to the public. It cannot be if citizens of color are to be excluded. Servants can enter, but those owning their homes, engaged in business, are not to be allowed to come into the park, even upon the payment of the fee. This is a prejudice with a vengeance. It is a long step backwards.

White folks from the jails and penitentiaries can enjoy the privileges of Lakeside Park. White sons from the bar-rooms of the city, white folks from the dives and houses of prostitution, white folks of the lowest type can enjoy themselves in Lakeside Park, but colored ones, whether senators or congressmen, legislators or councilmen, representatives of the government or visitors from other states are to be barred out of Lakeside Park.

And Major Lewis GINTXER is made to share the responsibility. Why not the discrimination be made upon the ground of respectability? Why not the line be drawn as between the vicious and the well-behaved?

But, it is Major GINTXER's property and he has the right to say whom he will admit and whom he will not. For our part, the place has no charm for us. The public parks in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, Cincinnati, and Richmond are good enough for us. We are content. But it is the principle for which we contend and the race prejudice, so manifest that we cannot demur.

Let there be no trouble about it. Mr. GINTXER and his circle of friends do not want us and we are self-respecting enough not to want them.

We note that this gentleman, who has done so much to advance the interests of "white" Richmond, and thereby necessarily assisted the interests of "colored" Richmond is feeling the weight of years, and has abandoned active interest in the American Tobacco Co. We are sorry and can only pray for him, trusting that our God will remove from his eyes the scales of prejudice, and bring him to a realizing sense that the better class of Richmond's citizens have not insisted on demanded such radical discriminations. Good evening, Mr. GINTXER.

A TRAVERSÉ UPON JUSTICE.

Wonders will never cease, and the oppression of colored people will continue many years yet. The conviction of Wesley Mayo, colored, charged with attempted criminal assault, up on Mrs. NANNIE E. LOWERY, white, is the most astounding proceedings we have ever noted with the lone exception of the Lunenburg Case.

The crime is alleged to have occurred in Chesterfield county, not more than a half hour's walk from our office, and the nearest Mrs. LOWERY says that Mayo got to her was about thirty yards from her. Who ever heard talk of such a charge being trumped up against any one? When asked what he did or attempted to do to her she was silent. Her servant and children were within call and her husband was well-nigh as near. She could be seen by neighbors and Mayo could be seen by them, from the place they were standing, and Mayo did not attempt to get nearer to her than thirty yards to the end that he ordered a special grand jury summoned, and had the trial well-nigh forthwith. The verdict of ten years in the penitentiary is the result.

The absurdity of the decision was appreciated by all in the court-room, both white and colored and the groundlessness of the charge made apparent. Mayo has a wife and two small children. He is innocent of the charge,

God knows; but he is made a victim of race prejudice, and the able attorneys who defended him were powerless to stem the tide. Passion was predominant, oaths disregarded and a jury of white men wreaked dire disaster upon this lone man and his pitiful little ones.

What a parody upon justice! Where was Judge LEWIS, when all of this was taking place? There he sat, cool, collected and undisturbed. What he thought, away down in his heart of hearts will never be known perhaps.

But who were the jurors in this case? From whence did they come? Their destination is well-known. Their names as given are: JOHN H. ANDERSON, P. L. ANDERSON, C. F. FISHER, W. C. FOWLER, W. C. BOKANAH, JOHN M. FRENCH, H. K. REID, ALEXANDER EASTWOOD, GEORGE W. KEANE, CHARLES H. THORPE, GEORGE T. MARKHAM and M. A. RICHTELL.

Can a man commit criminal assault upon a woman at a distance of one hundred and fifty feet? Can he attempt such a proceeding at such a distance? Would a lunatic presume such a thing much less an intelligent being?

Is there an individual who believes that had Mayo been white and Mrs. LOWERY, colored that even an arrest would have been made, much less a conviction asked for? Is there a person who believes that had both parties been white that such a thought would have entered the minds of the officers of the law? It is useless to talk about such a charge against Mayo, had Mrs. LOWERY been colored.

WESLEY MAYO never attempted to assault the lady in question.

He is as innocent as any man could possibly be. It is well enough to punish white or colored brutes, but to take a hard working man of MAYO's stripe and incarcerate him in jail for months in an outrage almost intolerable in itself.

Ten years for WESLEY MAYO! Ten years would have been all the more striking had they decided to hang him. Ten years for looking in the direction of a white female. Ten years for walking in the neighborhood. Ten years for being a citizen of color. Ten years for being poverty-stricken and out of work. Ten years in the penitentiary! Ten years of death-dealing toll. Ten years!

God forbid! The time will yet come when the patriotic white people of the land will realize that these miscarriages of justice for the colored man will mean a legacy of retribution for the white one.

Prosperity cannot linger here. Happiness will fly away. White men are discussing that verdict and are shocked. Colored ones are expressing opinions and feel that the commonwealth has been outraged.

Gentlemen of the jury, the penitentiary was built for guilty people. It is already overcrowded. Its portals were not made to shelter such as WESLEY MAYO.

THE TRIAL OF LEWIS.

The trial of James Lewis, colored at Fairfax, C. H. Va., upon a charge of assaulting a white female, Mrs. BARNES, and his conviction on the 28th inst., was a farce from beginning to end. It deserves the severest condemnation by right-thinking people everywhere.

It makes a citizen pause and ask the question, whether are we drifting, and are any of our lives secure? Despite the fact that two juries disagreed as to the infliction of the death penalty, and the third, having long before reaching a verdict, an informed mob, howling for his blood, intimidated the men selected to try the case, and a verdict of guilty was reached in accordance with the popular clamor.

Lewis has steadfastly insisted upon his innocence, and there is a strong suspicion that he told the truth.

But the announcement of Judge GRAHAM that the convicted man had a fair and impartial trial is as amusing as it is ludicrous. What is a fair and impartial trial? Does it consist in having mobs around the court-room? Does it embrace an intimidation of the witnesses to the end that they shall color their statements against the prisoner? Does it include the requirement that the accused shall prove his innocence rather than that the commonwealth shall establish his guilt? Does it signify that an immediate trial should be held, while the white community is in a high state of excitement and the minds of the people biased by exaggerated reports?

Does it mean a denial of the request for a change of venue, or does it mean a submission to the decrees of the mob? Can Judge GRAHAM answer? Will he pause in his official duties and enlighten the public upon these subjects?

But thoughtful, law-abiding, Christian white and colored people are asking whether or not Judge Lewis criminally assaulted or attempted to criminally assault Mrs. BARNES? Does Judge GRAHAM believe he did? If answered in the affirmative and the evidence sustains the same; little sympathy will be expended upon the man who has placed himself in such a predicament.

And yet, were he guilty of even this crime, and it is not at all probable that he is, he would be entitled to a fair and impartial trial, which he has not yet had.

A jury composed of men of his color would convict him as quickly as a white one.

We enter our protest against such trials within the confines of this commonwealth. We warn the people and the officers of the law that such a condition cannot long continue. It will result in consequences, too fearful to contemplate with inequity. All citizens, regardless of race or color will be the sufferers thereby.

Through the smoke of this troublesome condition, one man, the central figure in this commonwealth today stands courageously and immovable. True to his convictions, faithful to the obligations which he has taken, CHARLES T. O'FARRELL, the stately Chief Executive of this grand old commonwealth is true and indignant upon the fulfilling of the guarantees of the constitution.

A soldier, every inch of him, performing duties, regardless of his disagreeable nature, he has won the admiration and esteem of the better classes of the commonwealth and by his patriotic course attracted the attention of the civilized world.

Name an official in this country or Europe, who would have been more obedient in the performance of a sworn obligation than was he, in sending state troops to Fairfax C. H., in order that the laws might be upheld at all hazards.

The militia did its duty, the Monticello Guards reached the scene of the disturbance, and the lynching spirit was subdued. Not before, however

the jury had been intimidated, and forced to do what its predecessors had declined to do—agree to indict the death-penalty upon a man, who declares he is not guilty, and whom they themselves believe is not deserving of death upon the gibbet.

But a change must come. God will yet bring all things right, when the tomb contains the forms of those who have so flagrantly disregarded our laws.

Life is but short at best, and retribution will come to those who are forward in encouraging mobs to violence and jurists to participating in carrying out judicial murder. Lynch-law must go!

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